

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of transporting and installing a modular
2 milking parlor comprising:
 - 3 (a) providing a modular milking parlor having a rigid
4 milking parlor frame including a rectangular frame base including lateral
5 and longitudinal members joined together to define a front side and a back
6 side of the milking parlor, and a plurality of milking stations mounted in a
7 row to the milking parlor frame above the frame base;
 - 8 (b) attaching wheeled carriages to the frame of the
9 modular milking parlor, each wheeled carriage having a carriage body and
10 a caster wheel that can be raised or lowered with respect to the carriage
11 body, the carriages being attached to the modular milking parlor with the
12 frame base resting on the ground;
 - 13 (c) raising the modular milking parlor off of the ground by
14 advancing the wheels of each carriage away from the carriage body to lift
15 the carriage body and the frame of the milking parlor attached thereto;
 - 16 (d) rolling the modular milking parlor as supported by the
17 wheels of the carriages over at least part of the transport of the modular
18 milking parlor to a site where the modular milking parlor is to be installed;
19 and
 - 20 (e) at the site at which the modular milking parlor is to be
21 installed, withdrawing the wheels of the carriages to drop the modular
22 milking parlor down until the frame base rests on the surface of the site
23 and then removing the carriages from the frame of the modular milking
24 parlor.

1 2. The method of Claim 14 including the further step of
2 depositing a layer of concrete over and covering the frame base of the
3 modular milking parlor after it is positioned at the installation site.

1 3. The method of Claim 14 wherein the modular milking
2 parlor supported by the wheels of the carriage is rolled from a point of
3 assembly of the modular milking parlor to a flatbed truck, including the
4 steps of loading the modular milking parlor with the carriages attached
5 thereto onto the truck, transporting the modular milking parlor on the
6 truck to a position near the site at which the modular milking parlor is to
7 be installed, unloading the modular milking parlor from the truck and
8 rolling the modular milking parlor supported by the wheels of the carriages
9 to the site at which the modular milking parlor is to be installed.

1 4. The method of Claim 16 further including adjusting the
2 height of the wheels of the carriages as the modular milking parlor is
3 rolled from the truck to the point of installation to accommodate changes
4 in the height of the terrain over which the modular milking parlor is being
5 rolled.

1 5. A method of installing a modular milking parlor
2 comprising:
3 (a) providing a modular milking parlor having a rigid
4 milking parlor frame including a rectangular frame base and a plurality of
5 milking stations mounted in a row to the milking parlor frame above the
6 frame base;
7 (b) positioning the modular milking parlor at the site at
8 which it is to be installed with the frame base resting on a surface at the
9 position at which the modular milking parlor is to be installed; and

10 (c) depositing a layer of concrete over the frame base to
11 cover and enclose the frame base.

1 6. A wheeled carriage suited for transporting a modular
2 milking parlor, comprising:

3 (a) a carriage body;

4 (b) a plurality of caster wheels;

5 (c) means for adjustably mounting the wheels to the
6 carriage body so that the wheels can be moved up and down with respect
7 to the carriage body; and

8 (d) means for releasably connecting the carriage body to a
9 structural member.

1 7. The wheeled carriage of Claim 34 wherein the means
2 for adjustably mounting the wheels to the carriage body includes a hand
3 operated jack connected to each wheel.

1 8. The wheeled carriage of Claim 34 wherein the means
2 for releasably connecting the carriage body to a structural member
3 includes a downwardly extending section of the carriage body with a slot
4 therein formed to fit over an upright web of a structural member, and a
5 bolt threaded through openings in walls of the downwardly extending
6 section at the slot in the section such that the bolt can be passed through
7 an opening in an upright web of a structural member.

1 9. The wheeled carriage of Claim 34 wherein the means
2 for adjustably mounting the wheels to the carriage body includes an air
3 pressure operated piston-cylinder connected to each wheel.

- 1 10. The wheeled carriage of Claim 37 further including a
- 2 valve connected to each piston-cylinder and operable to supply air under
- 3 pressure in one valve position and to release air in the piston-cylinder in
- 4 another position.